US offer to lease two PC-3 Orion Aircrafts

2324. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has offered to lease two PC-3 Orion reconnaissance aircrafts to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Navy has studied the lease offer to find out whether it meets their needs and is cost-effective;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) when a final decision by the Indian Navy is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The United States has indicated that two PC-3 Orion aircrafts could be made available on lease. However, no formal offer has been received from the United States in this regard. A decision in the matter can only be taken after a detailed offer is received from the US and the same is examined by NHQ/MoD.

Production of F-16 and F-18 Fighter Planes

2325. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to produce F-16 and F-18 Fighter Planes in the country; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pending power projects proposal of Andhra Pradesh

2326. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: